

COVID-19 Mandate Protests - Operational Impact

Situational Report- February 4, 2022 - 16:00

From: Irrelevant

To:

Date: Fri, 04 Feb 2022 21:07:52 +0000

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<i>Situational Report</i>
COVID-19 Mandate Protests Operational Impacts
February 4, 2022 – 16:00

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Background

On January 15, 2022, an Order of Council (OIC) was put in place to mandate vaccinations for commercial truck drivers crossing the border. As a result, commercial truck drivers around the country have organized and started protesting outside port of entries (POEs) by blocking roads and slowing traffic, along with a convoy of commercial vehicles headed towards Ottawa to protest outside Parliament.

Bottom Line:

- ~ Coutts: Situational Awareness: Briefing with partner agencies suggests the next 24-48 hours have the highest potential for protest escalation.
- ~ Additional protests are expected across the country over the weekend as there are protests and counter-protests planned for Provincial capitals.
- ~ One active demonstration remaining at Coutts, AB, where one lane is open northbound and one southbound. A second blockade was established about 18 km north of Coutts in Milk River, AB on a highway leading to POE and is slowing U.S. bound traffic.
- ~ Public Safety Minister Mendicino has [Tweeted](#) that he has approved a request from the City of Ottawa for additional RCMP officers in the city. Ottawa Police Chief announced at a news conference at 09:00 on February 4, 2022 that 150 additional officers will be deployed. OPS Intelligence suggests 300-400 more trucks, 1000-2000 more protestors and up to 1000 counter protestors could arrive downtown this weekend. Heavy barricades and road closures will be employed to manage traffic, as police move to isolate and contain people inside the "red zone" in front of Parliament Hill.
- ~ Social media postings have indicated that additional convoy protests are planned in the coming days (see new section below)
- ~ Demonstrations are planned at Queen's Park in Toronto, Quebec City National Assembly buildings and Edmonton legislature this weekend.
- ~ The [GoFundMe](#) supporting the convoy protest has reached \$10,093,200 and has been paused for review by the GoFundMe organization. According to statements made by the Ottawa Police, US agencies including DHS are now involved in investigating the origins of the GoFundMe linked to the protest convoy.

~ Remaining protest activity nationally is not impacting POE operations.

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Upcoming protest events:

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Upcoming Events		
ONGOING	CONFIRMED	UNCONFIRMED
~ Ottawa – February 4 and 5, 2022, additional protesters to arrive on Parliament Hill ~ Coutts – North and south bound traffic is flowing with one lane open in each direction and gates are open. US CBP is maintaining a checkpoint to meter traffic to proceed to the Primary Inspection Line. Protestors continue to line the highway north of the POE. ~ ~	~ Ottawa - February 5, 2022, 3 counter protests outside Ottawa Police HQ, Elgin Street	CANADA: ~ Ottawa - Four potential demonstrations (protests and counter protests) planned for February 5, 2022 ~ Charlottetown – Protest to converge at cenotaph, February 5, 2022 ~ Windsor - Slow Roll February 4 to 6, 2022 ~ Across Canada - Mariners for Freedom February 4, 2022 at 13:00hrs local time. (As of 09:00 February 4, 2022, no new information received) ~ Toronto – February 5, 2022, Freedom Convoy protest ~ Vancouver – February 5, 2022, Freedom Convoy Protest ~ Victoria (PAC) – February 5, 2022. From Campbell River across Vancouver Island until reaching the parliament building in Victoria. There are reports of planned counter protests. ~ Quebec City – February 5, 2022, Freedom Convoy protest in the vicinity of the National Assembly buildings (Unconfirmed) ~ February 5, 2022 12:00 MT- Coutts blockade. Media reports that there

		has been no movement to Edmonton. February 6, 2022 – partner information s.37 indicates potential commercial vehicle blockade at Peace Bridge SOR, and Montreal, QUE US: Washington, US Capital - February 8 and 9, 2022, US Freedom Convoy EUROPE: Brussels - Freedom Convoy Europe 2022 (Unconfirmed)
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US Protestors Identified at Port of Entries

~ Reports received from CBSA POEs regarding Enhanced Vigilance Exams of potential protestors:

POE	Vehicle #	Enhanced vigilance exams (PAX #)	Direct Back	Allowed to Leave	Granted Entry	Comments
Pac Hwy Traffic, PAC	2	3	3	0	~	Wrong turns attempting to protest at Peace Arch Park.
Douglas, PAC	10	21	18	3	~	Wrong turns attempting to protest at Peace Arch Park.
Lansdowne, NOR	1	2	~	~	2	Journalists looking to document the protests in Ottawa. Provided necessary credentials and had equipment consistent with their stated purpose of travel.
Total	13	26	21	3	~ 2	~

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Atlantic Region

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No updates to report

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Quebec Region

- As of February 3, 2022, Media reports that more than 100 vehicles, the first of several expected convoys, arrived in Quebec City on Thursday night in advance of a protest planned for Saturday, February 5, 2022 at the National Assembly buildings in support of the ongoing Ottawa protest.

Northern Ontario Region

No updates to report

Greater Toronto Area Region

- On February 4, 2022 at 10:52 EST, the region reported that a truck convoy to Queen's Park is scheduled in the GTA. at approximately 10:00 on February 5, 2022. There are 7 meet up locations across the GTA which appear to be large malls/shopping centres. There may be impacts to Billy Bishop and Pearson airports and other CBSA offices in the area. Communications is monitoring. An all staff message will be disseminated to alert employees of the convoy and anticipated impacts.

Southern Ontario Region

Blue Water Bridge

No updates to report.

Ambassador Bridge / Windsor-Detroit Tunnel

- As of February 4, 2022 at 11:44EST, Commercial Operations reported that slow roll / convoy vehicles were in the vicinity of the Ambassador Bridge, driving on Huron Church northbound and southbound. Some employees had difficulty reporting to work, but otherwise no impact to operations at this time.
- On February 4, 2022 at 10:54 EST, SOR Intelligence released an Intelligence Alert, advising there is a likelihood of protest events or blockade of the Ambassador Bridge over the weekend, which may include vehicles such as Farm Equipment.

Prairie Region

Commercial Traffic Volumes

# Passages (Persons)	This Week						Last Week					
	2022-01-29	2022-01-30	2022-01-31	2022-02-01	2022-02-02	2022-02-03	2022-01-22	2022-01-23	2022-01-24	2022-01-25	2022-01-26	2022-01-27
Coutts Travellers	202	22	20	11	9	44	234	253	188	251	177	232
Coutts Commercial*	262	23	0	0	0	72	397	372	361	349	479	588
Del Bonita	0	0	186	225	173	224	0	0	43	8	19	33
Carway	35	211	127	132	97	90	47	78	29	21	24	28
Aden	3	32	11	17	8	13	1	0	0	1	2	0
Other Commercial POEs												
Regway	39	78	66	117	85	103	41	30	57	40	46	64
Roosville	99	271	223	167	169	187	72	150	105	70	143	146
North Portal Travellers	73	83	72	69	53	66	43	35	74	59	48	71
North Portal Commercial	334	280	223	268	458	426	335	258	205	290	316	393

The CBSA temporarily expanded hours of service at two POEs in Alberta due to the ongoing protest and blockade in the immediate vicinity of the CBSA POE at Coutts, Alberta. This short-term measure

helps alleviate impacts to travellers that are unable to access CBSA services at the Coutts, Alberta POE, while the protest activity is underway. Prairie Region is engaged with US CBP.

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The two land POEs are located adjacent to the Coutts, AB POE and are designated under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (IRPA) regulations to provide immigration services:

- o~ [Carway, Alberta](#) – current temporary expanded hours: 08:00 to 22:00 MT (7 days per week);
- o~ [Del Bonita, Alberta](#) – current temporary expanded hours: 09:00 to 22:00 MT (Monday to Friday)

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CBSA and CBP are closely monitoring operations at ports of entry in Southern Alberta and may seek to expand operations to include Saturday and Sunday at Del Bonita should protest activity impede the highway north of Coutts. At this time, there is no further requirement to extend operations at this location.

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As of February 4, 2022 at 11:30 EST, the region reports that CBP supports the temporary expansion of hours of operation POE Carway. At POE Del Bonita, CBP supports the temporary expansion of hours of operations Monday to Friday, but NOT for Saturday/Sunday.

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- ~ Traders and commercial carriers will continue to be advised that three adjacent commercial ports of entry remain available at Regway SK, North Portal, SK and Roosevelt, BC.

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Coutts

- ~ **Situational Awareness:** Partner information advises that the next 24 hrs is critical. Based on similar events, the next 24-48 hours have the highest potential for escalation, as the weekend and warm weather will bring more people to the site and to the new protest at the RCMP-held checkpoint. Fatigue and frustration of protestors and anti-protestors may lead to escalation or possible violence and biggest threat to officer safety.

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- ~ NOTAMs have been issued for Coutts and Milk River, AB and are expected to remain in place until 18:30hrs EST, on February 9, 2022.

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- ~ Media reports that there has been no movement of the Coutts protestors toward Edmonton. Protesters are reported to be bringing in additional supplies, indicating a longer stay.~

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- ~ February 4, 2022 – As of 14:05 MT, there were no substantive changes to CBSA operations. POE operations are running normally. There is no protest activity on CBSA property. Commercial and PMV traffic volumes remains low. There are 7 vehicles waiting at the US export check.

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- ~ February 4, 2022 – As of 12:48 MT. No substantive changes to CBSA operations are reported. POE operations are running normally. There is no protest activity on CBSA property. Mid day officers were able to report for duty without incident. Commercial and PMV traffic volumes remains low.

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- ~ February 4, 2022- As of 10:26hrs, MT, No substantive changes to report. POE operations are running normally. All CBSA officers were able to report for duty without incident. Commercial and PMV traffic volumes remains low..

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Carway

- ~ February 4, 2022 - As of 1240 hrs the region reported a convoy of vehicles in the duty free parking lot North of POE and rolling north/south on Highway 2. It is estimated that 20 or more

vehicles are honking and cheering. There have been no interactions with BSO's. Traffic flow remains normal; all vehicles north bound flowing freely.

Emerson

No updates to report

North Portal

No updates to report

Pacific Region

As of February 4, 2022, Pacific region noted an increase in online posts from BC residents calling for BC to create its own version of the Coutts-style blockade. Media reports claim a large group of trucks is planned to either create a border blockade or travel to the Parliament in Victoria, BC on February 5th.

Intelligence and Enforcement

Intelligence Landscape (Updates in red)

BLUF: At this time (04FEB2022:1330), the overall threat to CBSA officers and infrastructure is low.

ANALYSIS:

General Threats

- No change to posture. According to the RCMP, no formal organized plot of violence has been identified. Factors such as the circulation of misinformation, exhaustion, substance abuse, altercations amongst protesters and with law enforcement and the influence of ideologically motivated actors or charismatic speakers may impact the temperature of the crowd. The potential for violence by a lone actor or fringe group cannot be discounted.
- Romana Didulo is now in Ottawa and was filmed burning a Canadian flag on Parliament Hill. Didulo is a QAnon online influencer with an estimated 73,000 followers in Canada and the US. Over the last 1.5 years Didulo has issued a series of anti-vaccination messages to her growing number of followers. Following her instructions some of her followers in both Canada and the US have been delivering fake "Cease and Desist" orders to government, law enforcement, health and education officials that they believe are involved in administering or enforcing COVID vaccinations or government mandated health restrictions. On November 10, 2021 an individual identified as [REDACTED] hand delivered a fake "Cease and Desist" order to the BSOs working at the Carson POE in PAC region. "Cease and Desist" orders were also delivered in 2021 to the Carson, Cascade, Paterson, Waneta, Nelway, Rykerts, & Kingsgate POEs. Didulo refers to her armed followers as "Duck Hunters" and has previously urged her armed followers to kill individuals involved in administering the COVID vaccination program and also any individuals who enforce government mandated COVID restrictions or requirements for vaccination.
- There is currently no confirmed end time for the demonstrations in Ottawa. With Ottawa police expecting additional convoys this weekend, an increased police presence has been approved with RCMP sending more officers to support OPS. Local citizens are also continuing to react to the disruption caused by the protest, with an online petition and several requests for permission to counter-protest. The mounting frustration on both sides may lead to violent confrontations, which may pose a threat to the CBSA NHQ building located four blocks south of the Parliament Hill.
- RCMP reporting states: Canada-wide solidarity actions have occurred simultaneously with the demonstration in Ottawa and more are being planned for this coming weekend, some of which may affect Canada-US border operations (currently there are no reported operational impacts from the POEs). As the situation in Ottawa is receiving widespread coverage, actions in Ottawa may continue to influence impromptu events in other Canadian provinces.

POE Threats

- ~ An ongoing analysis of SRT reporting, OSINT, s.38 [REDACTED] indicates that there are no credible threats currently identified for any POE.
- ~ Information from the RCMP, the media and social media indicate that the protesters at Coutts discussed moving to Edmonton, perhaps influenced by a number of United Conservative Party MLAs who expressed their support for lifting COVID restrictions. Currently the protesters at Coutts have not left the area and are continuing their protests at Coutts and Milk River approximately 20 kilometres north of Coutts. Media reports indicate that the protesters have brought in supplies to continue the protests at the current locations.
- ~ CBSA reporting indicates that Slow Roll / Convoy vehicles are currently in the vicinity of the Ambassador Bridge, driving on Huron Church Road northbound and southbound. There are no reported operational impacts at the POE at this time.
- ~ **No update.** A Toronto group aligning itself with Freedom Convoy 2022 protesters in Ottawa is circulating flyers on social media calling for a protest against COVID-19 restrictions and mandates at Toronto's Queen Park on Saturday, Feb. 5. There is no indication, at this time, that this planned protest will be directed to either of Toronto's major airports.
- ~ **No Update.** In addition to the event in Ottawa, a Mariners for Freedom vessel parade is being planned across Canada, reportedly aiming to "protest in ports and all over Canadian shipping lanes." The movement's Facebook page had gained over 7,000 members by 01 Feb, and an additional 5,000 members in the past 12 hours. The event is planned for 04 Feb at 13:00 local time at participant ports. While disruptive activity is not being considered for 04 Feb, consideration is being given to disrupting commercial marine transportation in future events should demands not be met.

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Ideologically Motivated Violent Extremism (IMVE)

- ~ **No change to posture.** According to the RCMP, while chatter encouraging peaceful and lawful protest continues to circulate, concerns exist that protest events associated with the convoy could be exploited by individuals who engage in or promote actions that pose a risk to public and officer safety. While IMVE persons of interest and indicators have been observed in Ottawa, this has not been observed at POE protests.

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Other Threats

- ~ **No update.** According to social media, the Ottawa Police Chief says that there is funding from the US as well as Canada fueling the protests. He is quoting national security sources who raise concerns about foreign funding as well. The media is also stating that the GoFundMe account for Freedom Convoy has been suspended pending further review. The CBSA has not yet seen any indication of foreign funding or HASA activity connected to this fund raising, but given the large amount of anonymous donors it cannot be disregarded.
- ~ **Ongoing threat.** The size, unorganized potential and general distraction of some these POE protests continue to create conditions where both criminal actors and migrants may use the events to illegally cross the border into Canada. This may also include protesters who wish to join events on the Canadian side of the border, but do not want to report to Border Service Officers.
- ~ US news sites are reporting that Facebook has removed the Facebook pages associated to "Convoy to D.C. 2022" being used to organize truckers to drive from California to Washington D.C. Media reporting states that Facebook has also removed the pages for the other planned US-based protest convoys originating in Texas and Florida. Social media and news websites in the US indicated that there is an online movement, which was focused on Facebook pages entitled "Freedom Convoy 2022", to organize protest convoys of US truckers from Texas and Florida which would converge on Washington D.C. with tentative planned arrival time in D.C. of February 8th. The organizers of Freedom Convoy 2022 reportedly moved their online operations to Telegram, with at least 28,000 individuals joining that Telegram page. There is no reporting at this time to indicate that the proposed US convoys plan to enter Canada.

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Internal Taskforce

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No updates to report

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Communications

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~ On February 4, 2022, CBSA communications closed eight Coutts-related calls. There is a media request whether the CBSA anticipates blockages at Blue Water Bridge this weekend.

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Other Governmental Departments

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~ February 3, 2022 – Transport Canada has issued NOTAMs for airspace restrictions over the following areas:

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Parliament Hill - extended until February 7, 2022
Queen's Park, Toronto - until February 9, 2022
Coutts, (Milk River) Alberta – until February 9, 2022
Quebec City (unconfirmed) – until Feb 8, 2022

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